

City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes from September 18, 2008

Attendees:

Committee Members: Mary Miller, Janet Schofeild, John Mercier, Lauren Flieder, Chiara Dolcino, Elizabeth Odell, John Mercier and City Councilor Candace White Bouchard.

Guests: Frank Muller from Capital Ski and Outing Club

Staff Members: David Gill – Recreation, Chris Jacques – General Services, Doug Woodward – Community Development, Sophie Wood Rendal - Recreation

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by RPAC Chair Mary Miller.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on Cross Country Skiing at Memorial Field.

Frank Muller gave a quick overview of the x-county skiing opportunities at Memorial Field. They would like to review the possibility of adding a light on the hill area to allow for after school use from 3 – 5pm. Rundlett Middle School will be having a cross country ski program this year and would welcome the extra light. He mentioned he will talk with the Concord High School Athletic Director about the possibility of the school paying for the light. Frank mentioned they will be making new signs to place on the trails. He passed around a sample of one. He also asked is there a possibility for volunteers to help clear some of the brush away from around the soccer field and back football field. Chris asked Frank to call and set up a meeting to coordinate the volunteers.

The group thanked Frank for his update and the work he does with the cross country ski trails.

Sponsorship Packet Review

Sophie Rendal, Recreation Intern passed out final copies of the new sponsorship packet. RPAC sub committee did meet over the summer and has already reviewed the packet.

The group thanked Sophie for her hard work and dedication to the Department. Janet made a motion to accept the report as presented, seconded by Liz and was unanimously approved.

Sub Committee of Community Centers

Mary gave an update of the committee. This was to be a 40,000 foot review, with the understanding that this information will help members begin to understand the operation of each center. Over the summer the sub committee did meet with Jeff Hoadly (General Services) and David Gill (Recreation) and toured each of the buildings. At the June meeting RPAC had asked for the following information.

- Income and Expenses for Recreation Programs and rental income. (provided)
- Overview of the Capital Needs of each building. (provided)
- Year built and assessed values of each building. (provided)
- Expenses from General Services on operating costs. (no information provided)

Mary mentioned she wrote a letter to Chip Chelsey (General Services Director) and Tom Aspell (City Manager) asking for General Services expenses break down. Mary indicated she did receive a note back from Chip indicating that General Services needs more time to gather this information.

Sub committee members thought the tour was very helpful and are surprised by the poor conditions of the centers. Everyone agreed these buildings are passed their prime and would need lots of money to bring up speed.

Members agreed they cannot move forward with reviewing the community centers operation until all information has been gathered. The group hoped that over the next 30 days that General Services would be able to provide this information.

Softball World Series planned for August 2009

David highlighted the letter the City Manger received this week. This letter was forwarded to all RPAC members prior to the meeting. There will be a ribbon cutting event this Monday for announcing the U16 Softball World Series coming to Memorial Field in August 2001. Several RPAC members expressed concerns why they are planning on converting the baseball field over to softball field. Members also expressed major concerns about the length of time that would require the baseball field to be closed to the community. The group expressed a strong desire for the Work Series to be played on the Softball "A" Field rather than converting the baseball field. They thought having the event on the softball field would allow for some long needed improvements to be completed which could remain for years to come. David indicated he will ask the group to come talk to RPAC for the next meeting. The group unanimously agreed this would be helpful.

OLD BUSINESS

White Park Update

David gave an update of the ongoing project. Work is well underway with the vendor focusing on fill for the ball field and the parking lot. Completion is planned for the end of December, 2008. David mentioned over the next 30 days we should really see the master plan taking shape.

Fall Recreation Programs Update

David gave a short review of the fall programs and indicated registration are holding steady. The new Recreation Department's brochure should be delivered early October.

Update on new Park Signs

Chris Jacques said the new signs are going up and will be painted next spring due to them using pressure treated wood. He mentioned one sign was already damaged at Keach Park but has been repaired.

Update on GIS mapping of Park bench locations

Chris expects the GIS mapping for current and locations for new park benches should be completed over the winter. David mentioned that he is currently holding six new park bench requests for White Park.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm

Respectively submitted by:

David Gill,
Recreation Director